



AI in Education: learner choice and fundamental rights

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Abstract

This article examines benefits and risks of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education in relation to fundamental human rights. The article is based on an EU scoping study (Anonymous, 2017). The study takes into account both the potential for AI and 'Big Data' big data to provide more effective monitoring of the education system in real-time, but also considers the implications for fundamental human rights and freedoms of both teachers and learners. The analysis highlights a need to balance the benefits and risks as AI tools are developed, marketed and deployed. We conclude with a call to embed consideration of the benefits and risks of AI in education as technology tools into the development, marketing and deployment of these tools. There are questions around who - which body or organisation - should take responsibility for regulating AI in education, particularly since AI impacts not only data protection and privacy, but on fundamental rights in general. Given AI's global impact, it should be regulated at a trans-national level, with a global organisation such as the UN taking on this role.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Big Data; Predictive analytics; Data protection; Fundamental rights, Education.

1 Introduction

“Artificial Intelligence” (AI) applied to the ~~increasing~~ proliferation of real-time data (~~Big Data~~~~big data~~) is ~~being~~ promoted as a way to ~~improve educational systems~~ in ways that offer ~~learners experiences that are~~ more personalised, flexible, inclusive and engaging ~~learning~~ (UNESCO, 2017). To realise these benefits, governments, education sectors and technology organisations have been exploring ~~ways to introduce~~ ~~the introduction of AI to~~ ~~provide tools~~ ~~and platforms in learning and~~ to ~~help~~ deliver educational system monitoring that ~~is~~ ~~more~~ ~~is more~~ efficient (with less administrative burden) and effective (~~more with~~ timely, accurate, and informative indicators) than in contemporary educational ~~systems~~.

AI ~~can be~~ defined as “*the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings*”¹. ~~Within this broad area~~
 Much of the current attention is on machine learning and data mining; techniques that use a range of statistical-analytic (algorithmic) methods to harvest, structure and analyse computationally large data sets to reveal patterns, trends, and associations and to derive predictions from these. ~~The A~~ system is considered ‘intelligent’ ~~because when~~ it ‘learns’ from the data it is fed². ~~In theory, n~~ New data – if ~~truly~~ representative of what they are intended to represent - enable the system (~~in theory~~) to make more informed decisions about new, individual cases.

~~-----~~ AI scientists have been ~~building adapting on techniques of~~ machine learning, computer modelling and statistics ~~techniques~~ used in the business sector to improve decision making in educational systems (Nistor et al, 2016⁵; HEC Report, 2016). ~~In education, t~~ The patterns, trends, and associations identified by AI ~~in educational systems~~ tend to relate to ~~complex~~ human behaviour and interactions. ~~These AI systems systems used in education use~~ ~~capitalise on~~ a range of modelling ~~techniques approaches~~, such as ‘early alert systems’ that use predictive models to forecast the likelihood of a learner falling behind or dropping out of a course; ‘visualisation systems’ that illustrate learner progress in relation to pre-determined learning pathways; ‘recommender systems’ that endorse resources, people or future actions of the learner; and ‘adaptive systems’ that personalise content, presentation, recommendations and other design elements (Siemens & Long, 2011; Wolff et al, 2013; Nistor et al, 2016; Papamitsiou & Economides, 2014). ~~Many of these systems have also been subsumed under the term “learning analytics”, defined by a key professional association as which represents “the measurement, collection, analysis and~~

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/technology/artificial-intelligence>

² <https://www.britannica.com/technology/machine-learning>

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3 reporting of data about learners and their contexts, for purposes of understanding and
4 optimising learning and the environments in which it occurs”, with “analytics” referring to
5 “e.g. statistics, visualization, computer/data sciences, artificial intelligence”³. To emphasize
6 the manifold numerous connections to other fields in which AI is being deployed, and to
7 also encompass AI systems that go beyond data and analytics, we will refer to ‘uses of AI in
8 education’ and similar terms throughout this paper.

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12 Many AI systems in education use data about the choices and behaviour of previous
13 learners to support and enhance learning in a number of ways. ~~For example, by:~~ providing
14 Intelligent Tutoring (~~see for example~~cf. Roll, Russell, & Gašević, 2018; Chou, Chan, & Lin,
15 2003); ~~to~~ predicting each student’s grades, allowing the system to propose remedial action;
16 ~~to~~ introducing new forms of assessment (~~for example see~~e.g., the International Journal of
17 Artificial Intelligence in Education, 28(1), 2018); or ~~to~~ linking academic performance
18 predictions with university openings or job applications (Anonymous, 2017).

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22 ~~Although~~ predictive systems offer benefits, ~~such as~~ alerting tutors about which
23 students are ‘at risk’ of falling behind. ~~However,~~ there are a number of issues ~~drawbacks~~
24 associated with the use of these systems. First, there are risks of amplifying the ‘status quo’
25 in education (West, 2017). ~~Algorithms may be designed to conform to existing processes~~
26 and to be trained on data ~~collected to address existing processes that includes existing~~
27 biases (Custer et al, 2018). ~~Not only does the implementation of data-based~~ Thus the use of
28 these ~~systems make it more difficult to change educational approaches, but amplifies~~
29 existing prejudices, such as gender or ethnicity biases, making it more difficult to change
30 educational approaches and systems may be amplified within the system.

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36 Second, ~~although using new tools continually are promoted as being~~ to useful for
37 monitoring individual students, ~~this form of observation can also amount to, or grow into,~~
38 aggressive tracking ~~and potentially can be used for more sinister applications, such as~~
39 state monitoring of citizens (Sellgren, 2018; Jack, 2018). ~~Although intensive surveillance~~
40 has been used to identify ‘cheating’ behaviour, the technique potentially can be used for
41 more sinister applications, such as state monitoring of citizens.

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45 Third, AI systems can ~~be allowed to~~ (inadvertently) exert influence and control
46 through making decisions that have serious and ill-considered risks and drawbacks
47 associated with them. For example, linking academic performance predictions with
48 university or job applications will likely have a serious impact on an individual’s future
49 choices (Anonymous, 2017).

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55 ³ <https://www.solaresearch.org/about/what-is-learning-analytics/>

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3 These ~~sorts of risks~~ of AI in education are not always apparent because they are
4 ~~unseen, may not be inherent in the technology itself, but sometimes arise as~~ unintended or
5 unanticipated consequences of the use of AI systems ~~in education~~ (Pringle, Michael, &
6 ~~Michael, 2016~~). Nevertheless, these wider risks are not always taken into consideration.
7 ~~Over the past few years there have been~~ These issues are highlighted through a growing
8 ~~number of~~ studies of the legal and ethical issues associated with ~~embedding the~~
9 ~~introduction of~~ AI systems in education (Prinsloo & Slade, 2016; ~~Prinsloo & Slade, 2017~~).
10 ~~However, there have been~~ Yet, there are few analyses of the ~~likely~~ impact of AI in education
11 on individual freedoms and fundamental rights.
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16 There are significant human rights concerns associated with ~~the use of~~ systems that
17 gather large amounts of personal data about learners.⁴ Large-scale collection and analysis
18 of personal data are of concern to human-rights advocates, who ~~have called and~~ continue to
19 call for strong(er) data protection legislation and implementation (~~see for example e.g.,~~
20 Watters, 2018, Williamson, 2015). Thus, the benefits of AI have to be considered alongside
21 a proper assessment, critique and questioning ~~around of the risks. In particular it is~~
22 ~~important to question why AI systems are being used in education and whose are the~~
23 ~~beneficiaries whose~~ goals are being met, whether educators, students, parents, policy
24 makers or technology companies, ~~all of whom potentially benefit from AI.~~ It is also
25 ~~important to consider the impact of the use of AI systems on fundamental rights and~~
26 ~~whether there are better alternatives.~~⁵
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36 ⁴ For our argument, the following three terms can and are used mostly interchangeably:
37 *human rights* in the sense of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, *fundamental rights*
38 as legally protected human rights, in particular the *freedoms* such as privacy, protection of
39 personal data, expression and education (see Charter of Fundamental Rights of the
40 European Union).

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44 ⁵ We use *human rights* in the sense of the individual rights affirmed by the Universal
45 Declaration of Human Rights. The UDHR Declaration or its parts are not legally binding in
46 themselves. They have however been influenced by, and have strongly influenced, many
47 legally binding affirmations, including national Constitutions and the Charter of
48 Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The term *Fundamental rights* is used,
49 especially in Europe, to thus denote (human) rights thus protected by constitutions or the
50 law. Most fundamental rights, including those to privacy and the protection of personal
51 data, are also referred to as *freedoms* in this Charter, and thus the EU law GDPR refers to
52 “fundamental rights and freedoms”. In other contexts, “fundamental human rights” is used
53 to denote the same concept. While we argue with specific references to the GDPR, the rights
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Some scholars have argued that the rise-main beneficiaries of AI in education has been fuelled by the so-called ‘Tech Giants’ - global technology companies such as Facebook, Google and Microsoft —primarily for their own benefit (Watters, 2018). These companies have been proposing and offering practical “AI solutions” that are infiltrating education systems globally. Industry initiatives include such as Facebook for Education (<https://www.facebook.com/education>), Google for Education (<https://edu.google.com>) and Microsoft education (<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/education>) have led to a ‘creeping surveillance’ embedded within education sectors. The degree to which the systems these companies produce are implemented and used within education sectors in different countries depends on the national perspective and needs of each country. Governments that need to rapidly scale up educational opportunities, such as China, Kenya and Liberia, view technological systems as a way to support learning at scale. However, the way technologies are implemented within educational systems varies widely. On the one hand countries like China retain some control of how systems are used, for example by restricting the use of search technologies. On the other hand, countries such as Kenya and Liberia allow for-profit companies to integrate systems into their education systems in a (relatively) unrestricted way (Tyre, 2017). These government policy choices sit on a continuum from state jurisdiction to private enterprise. These choices often are positioned as education technology alternatives, which makes it difficult for students to appreciate the potential consequences of their decision to learn using a particular system. This leads to a power imbalance between citizens and those who control and process the data about them, whether governments or ‘Tech’ companies.

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To reduce this power imbalance make sure use of learners’ personal data provides benefits for the learners, themselves some governments and supra-national entities (such as the European Union, EU) have tried to make explicit political choices in favour of protecting individual rights. One notable example is the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), one of the most ambitious and far-reaching attempts to regulate the use of Big Data, which came into effect as law across all EU countries in May 2018. The GDPR is based on the principle that all individuals should have control over how their personal data is used across different contexts, including AI-based decision making. Although GDPR focuses on data protection and privacy rights, its explicit purpose is to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms that underpin democracy. Thus, the GDPR is an important part of the narrative around examination of the risks to citizens associated with the use of AI.

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we refer to, and the data protection principles designed to protect them, exist in similar form in many other jurisdictions. We therefore use all three terms.

This article considers the benefits and risks to citizens afforded by the use of AI in education systems. Its contribution is that of a critical review of empirical and theoretical literature, informed by our scholarly and professional expertise in educational technology and policy, AI, and data protection and privacy. The article is structured as follows: in Section 2 we examine the benefits and risks citizens face associated with the use of AI in education, by interrogating the choices learners may have about the use of their data. In Section 3, we describe how the risks identified in Section 2 are reflected in the GDPR framework, how these risks might be addressed, and what challenges remain. We conclude in Section 4 by we make recommending recommendations on how governments might protect their citizens against issues associated with the use of AI in education.

2 The Paradox: learner choice

Education systems face a paradox. In formal education systems, such as schools, colleges and universities,⁶ participation is compulsory. Even in colleges and universities, learners have to participate in specific learning activities and assessments that are considered (by teachers) to be beneficial for learnersthem. Paradoxically, obligatory participation in exercises may be viewed as a restricting reduction of fundamental human rights, including the right to exercise autonomy and to make choices, which is a fundamental human right. This paradox comes into sharp focus where Similarly, learner compulsory participation by learners have to participate in in activities and assessments where their data gathering is gathered. Even in situations where data gathering could be beneficial for learners, if the choice is not made freely and in an informed way, it may restrict the learner's autonomy, choice and fundamental human rights. Learners could be given the right to opt out of data collection. However, within AI educational systems largescale data gathering may be regarded as critical for good data quality which may offer learner benefits. Therefore, consideration of how to which, on the one hand, is beneficial for learners, but, on the other hand, restricts autonomy, choice and fundamental human rights. Understanding how to balance these fundamental human rights with data quality requires a careful consideration and potential benefits for the learner is vital. This section presents a number of case examples of the use of AI in education and interrogates the impact of autonomy, choice and the ability to 'opt out' of data collection on as a fundamental human right.

⁶ Of course, education is not a monolithic whole, and children have particular specific needs and rights (e.g., Livingstone & O'Neill, 2014; Lupton & Williamson, 2017; Anonymous, 2017). However, here we focus on issues and arguments that hold across different ages and educational contexts.

2.1 The ability to 'opt out'

Learners may wish to opt out of data collection (or not 'opt in') for ~~very different~~ diverse reasons, including political objections to surveillance ~~or religious motives~~. However, students who are below the legal age of adulthood are (in many countries) not able to legally 'opt in' or 'out' of monitoring. These decisions usually are made on their behalf by parents or legal guardians who may not be aware of the implications of their choices.

The choice to opt in or out of data collection influences data quality: ~~d.~~ Data gathered may be biased ~~since these data could~~ by over- or under-representing specific groups of learners. This problem is difficult to resolve, because it may not be obvious which groups are mis-represented ~~not and~~ how in what ways the representation of these groups is inaccurate. If datasets are non-representative ~~and biased,~~ the conclusions drawn from data analysis are not reliable. Analysis of these data may accentuate disadvantage by leading to conclusions that ~~disadvantage and~~ discriminate against under-represented types of learners (~~for example see, for example, cf.~~ the relationships between Big Data big data, representation, and discrimination ~~are~~ discussed by Barocas and Selbst, 2016). ~~Therefore,~~ ~~o~~ On the one hand it is important that learners can 'opt out' of having their data collected, but the act of 'opting out' may paradoxically skew data representation, accentuating disadvantage.

One example of a system that allows students to opt in or out of data monitoring is *OU Analyse*, an AI system developed by The Open University (UK) to provide early prediction of 'at-risk' students (Kuzilek et al, 2015). If the student agrees to have their data collected, the system gathers demographic data, including age, gender, place of residence and prior qualifications, and combines these with observed activity within the university's Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle). Each individual's data is analysed in relation to data from prior cohorts of students to predict the likelihood of passing the next assessment. These predictions are visualised as a course overview dashboard where the tutor who will mark the assessment can view the progress of each student using a 'traffic light' system. The system uses the data to make a decision whether remedial action is needed and recommends to the learner what to study next. While this type of system can be useful in helping a student progress, the use of the system raises fundamental questions such as: can the system be manipulated; what is the main rationale behind introducing who does the system benefit (the student or the organisation)? Is it intended to support learning or to enable the organisation to gain more revenue income? Can the data gathered be used to influence what type of staff are hired? Does the system, which is based on the idea of regular, traditional assessment, enhance or impede innovation? Does the system benefit the learners or systems designers who create the analytics to diagnose learning outcomes?

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3 [Can the system be manipulated? can the data gathered be used to influence what type of](#)
4 [staff are hired?](#)
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7 Systems that focus on supporting students to pass an assessment can be
8 manipulated for all kinds of reasons. For example, the system may make sure students
9 achieve the grades they need to ensure sufficient income stream for the organisation;
10 tutors might focus on preparing students for the exams, rather than on learning specific
11 concepts. There is evidence (Daly et al, 2012) that this already happens in some UK schools
12 in more advantaged areas, where teachers [may sometimes](#) focus on preparing pupils for
13 university entrance exams, rather than on the broader goal of learning, a strategy
14 sometimes termed 'teaching to the test'.
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19 'Gaming the system' is not a new strategy in educational organisations. ~~There is~~
20 evidence that educational testing systems have been based on inherent bias. Advantaged
21 students tend to have access to greater support to improve their grades, which means that
22 grades are not a measure of ability, but a measure of what students have achieved with a
23 high degree of supports they have access to. ~~If improvement is rewarded, there is an~~
24 incentive to downplay performance in the first measurement (Hargreaves and Shirley,
25 2009). These action-related inequities may exacerbate unfairness in educational testing,
26 and this has been the subject of descriptive and remedial research for fifty years (Mitchell
27 & Hutchinson, 2019).
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32 Goodhart's Law states: "*When a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good*
33 *measure*", and this general observation applies in educational settings as much as in the
34 business field where it was conceptualised. The temptation [with Big Data](#) is to try to
35 counter this phenomenon by measuring more, which creates a self-reinforcing dynamic of
36 surveillance (Wright and Kreis, 2014, p.191). Systems that invite 'gaming' behaviour, where
37 people to act in ways that they believe will offer them benefits, rather than behaving
38 naturally, affects data quality. Poor quality data will negatively impact equity, which, in
39 turn, may lead to [unwanted unwarranted](#) surveillance of 'poorly performing' students.
40 Surveillance is [one of the key major](#) problems of large-scale data collection and analysis,
41 and data protection laws [therefore](#) aim at [limiting eliminating unnecessary](#) data collection
42 and processing.
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48 Predictive modelling systems were originally developed to help companies with
49 financial planning. ~~While these systems can be used to inform students about their likely~~
50 ~~progress, educational organisations also benefit. These origins~~ [nexus](#) raise ~~s~~ fundamental
51 questions about ~~who benefits from the~~ use of ~~these AI~~ systems [in educations: learners,](#)
52 [teachers, parents, institutions or the technical companies that create the systems.](#) ~~One~~
53 ~~question is whether a teacher will be influenced by the data analysis received from the~~
54 ~~system. A teacher could unconsciously be biased by the data received from the system.~~
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~~Another~~ ~~There are~~ question ~~is around~~ whether the data is used to alert education administrators a to potential reduction in the number of students who progress to the next stage, which could lead to a loss of ~~income revenue~~ for the organisation. ~~The more students progress through a course, the greater the income.~~

~~However, t~~To make accurate financial projections, it is also important for the organisation to predict the level ~~of resources~~ ~~they need~~needed to support each student. These data help organisations predict how many students ~~they~~ will progress, forecast their likely fee income and predict outlay costs for student support. In the future these data could be used to hire ~~and fire~~ teaching ~~staff~~ on a casual basis, depending on the numbers of students predicted for each cohort and the likely level of support they need. ~~To the best of our knowledge, there is currently no published evidence that predictive modelling is being used to regulate staff recruitment in education or that it biases tutor judgement,~~ ~~However~~Therefore, the introduction of ~~these AI~~ systems bring closer a consideration of economic concerns associated with the cost of education, the conditions under which teaching staff are employed and the ways students are supported.

~~There is a further problem in that, r~~Rather than supporting innovation, the use of AI systems can ~~(inadvertently)~~ reproduce and magnify traditional approaches to education. Algorithms that analyse and convert unstructured, institutional data ~~into~~ meaningful 'insights', are trained on ~~the basis of~~ near, real-time data, ~~which may not be in a form needed to evidence learning progress.~~ These underlying algorithms tend to be designed ~~used~~ to support traditional approaches to teaching and learning, where students are guided through a sequential set of content, then engage in an assessment to mark the progress to the next stage (Knight et al, 2013). ~~These data may not be in a form needed to evidence learning progress.~~

~~Yet, i~~There is general agreement ~~t~~is widely agreed that traditional assessment is not an effective means of measuring learning and ~~does not give a good indication of whether a student is learnin~~progressg (Brown & Knight, 2012), ~~yet assessment data are used.~~ The ~~reliance of teachers on~~in many predictive analytics systems. ~~This~~ arguably makes it more difficult for schools, colleges and universities to change assessment models to more authentic and reliable forms of assessment (Hood & Littlejohn, 2018). This problem becomes even more acute where AI systems do not allow students to 'opt out' ~~of data collection.~~

2.2 Systems with limited 'opt out'

A number of systems are being trialled in schools to monitor children's progress through continual surveillance and data gathering. A system trialled in schools in China used robots

located in ~~the classrooms~~ and data chips embedded in each child's uniform to gather facial recognition and locational data and analyse these to monitor engagement and interaction (Shelton & Xiao, 2018). ~~The system records each instance of the student being distracted or checking their mobile phone.~~ The parent ~~has is given~~ the option to opt out the monitoring on behalf of the child. However, ~~as~~ there is strong social pressure not to opt out. ~~P,~~ ~~parents~~ may ~~give~~ consent. ~~Parents may because they~~ believe it is in their child's best interest to focus at school and ~~trust~~ that ~~the data shared can will~~ be used by the government to help improve education.

~~A similar~~ ~~Another~~ system trialled in China deployed headsets to detect and monitor brain activity (Jing & Soo, 2019) - technology normally used for brain scans in hospitals. Each student ~~wore wears~~ a headband with small electrodes to measure the brain's electrical signals. ~~These data were used to measure the to monitor each~~ student's level of concentration. A red light displayed on the headband when ~~a the~~ student ~~was is~~ focused and ~~this turned turns~~ blue when the student became distracted. The information could be sent directly (in real time) to the teacher and ~~to the~~ parents. While students ~~engaged engage individually~~ in problem solving ~~activities~~, the teacher ~~could use these data to can~~ identify ~~any student who was those~~ not 'paying attention'. At the end of each class the teacher ~~received receives~~ a report detailing the overall concentration ~~level of each student in the class. The report indicates and~~ variations in concentration levels of each student, ~~but.~~ ~~However, the data~~ quality ~~of these data~~ may be compromised if the headset is not positioned carefully or the student is moving.

~~There are a number of problems with this system.~~ These headbands are being used to force students to focus on their lessons and it is reported they achieve higher scores (~~Jing & Soo, 2019~~). However, the stress placed on children through this form of constant monitoring has not been measured. There is pressure on teachers too, since the reports generated could mistakenly be used as a measure of teaching quality. ~~–~~ The government receives non-anonymised data which it is free to use. Moreover, the use of these data may not be obvious to the students, parents or teachers (Wall Street Journal, 2019). ~~In sum, AI~~ systems ~~that data use that~~ subjects cannot opt out of lead to ~~less control over one's data a~~ ~~reduction of human rights~~, especially ~~if the where~~ data legally ~~or de facto~~ 'belongs' to the data controller and ~~if where~~ processing is not transparent.⁷

⁷ A data controller is "the natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data" (GDPR Article 4, 7.). ~~Informally speaking, it is the entity that~~ ~~Thus, it~~ is responsible for, and often also performs, data collection and processing tasks.

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3 Data “ownership” and control are a form of power differential. Student data can be
4 highly detailed and distributed across ~~educational both~~ administrative ~~sources, systems~~ and
5 commercial ~~IT~~ platforms, ~~leading to challenges raising complex questions~~ around
6 ownership and control (House of Commons, 2014). Learning management systems
7 increasingly store learners’ ~~big~~ data in systems that are outside ~~the an geographic location~~
8 ~~of an~~ educational institution. While ~~a systems~~ may be intuitively easy to use (for example,
9 clear menus and effective user training), their software design and hardware configuration
10 adds a high degree of complexity ~~to the system~~. Teaching staff may focus on the teaching
11 and learning functions, rather than understanding the underlying data storage and security
12 functionalities. This can lead to various problems, for example, ~~there can be issues where~~
13 ~~schools use use of a proprietary system such as~~ Dropbox for student work, ~~since this~~ may
14 breach privacy rules, because it stores ~~on data~~ ‘in the cloud’ (Kelion, 2015). These
15 platforms do not provide teachers and learners sufficient access to their own data,
16 undermining the individual’s ability to self-determine how their data will be used and
17 making teaching processes inscrutable (for an argument involving Coursera, see Dehaye,
18 2016).

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21 ~~Criminal justice systems have used AI systems where future criminal behaviour is~~
22 ~~predicted and parole decisions are recommended by big data systems that appear opaque~~
23 ~~to the users.~~ Transparency and accountability ~~may be often are~~ reduced where algorithms
24 and software are proprietary, ~~and where, e.~~ Even if these systems are open to inspection,
25 the algorithms may be ‘non-interpretable’ (Lipton, 2018). Lack of transparency and non-
26 interpretability can have specific effects, such as ‘undetected representation biases’ or
27 ‘undetected algorithmic biases’ (Williamson, 2015), increasing the difficulty with which
28 algorithmic systems and power structures can be challenged.

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31 This focus on algorithms obscures another problem: the availability and integration
32 of ~~other multiple~~ sources of data.

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35 ~~In principle, algorithms can be developed in-house, which alleviates the problem of~~
36 ~~proprietary algorithms. Software can, in principle, be deployed in-house, which alleviates~~
37 ~~problems of data leakage. However, e~~ Current trends in computing towards service-
38 oriented architectures (McLellan, 2016) and industry concentration (Lynn, 2017) make it
39 more likely that large vendors (~~the so-called~~ “Tech Giants”) control both the algorithmic
40 software and ~~the~~ data, opening up opportunities for further linkage and profiling.⁸ This

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54 ⁸ For example, two common platforms integrate Microsoft Office 365
55 (EUFolio) resp. Microsoft Office Online (Smartschool).

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3 increases the risks of large-scale security breaches⁹ and power differentials and reduces
4 the likelihood of transparency for the user, and of their trust in the data system (Gürses &
5 Hoboken, 2017).
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8 In theory each individual's right to data protection can reduce the power imbalance
9 between the individual and those who control the data (Gutwirth & De Hert, 2006), and
10 this form of individual empowerment is one of the main goals of the GDPR (Tsormpatzoudi
11 et al., 2016). However, ~~introducing embedding AI into systems into~~ educational systems
12 may exacerbate power imbalances and create new, unforeseen disparities. AI systems
13 may ~~inadvertently~~ shift the locus of expertise and power from teachers and school
14 administrators towards programmers or systems designers who create the analytics to
15 diagnose learning outcomes, predict future educational achievement and to determine who
16 gets recommended for what. These shifts in decision-making pose a range of risks
17 including de-skilling (known from other domains; see Condliffe, 2016, Economist, 2014⁷)
18 and transfers of public responsibilities and powers to private actors not subject to
19 democratic control (Taekke, 2011).
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25 Data-related challenges ~~are not only about~~ extend beyond data 'ownership', ~~but~~
26 ~~focused on to embrace~~ effective data control and usage rights. The spirit of the EU GDPR
27 data protection is not concerned with who owns personal data, but focuses on how these
28 data are being protected (no matter who owns them) by enabling individuals to exert
29 control of data about them. Treating personal data as a property allows people to sell their
30 data and data rights, an option that is likely to be chosen by poorer or less well educated
31 people. Thus, the possibility ~~for each individual for~~ of individuals to selling their own
32 personal data could increase social divides (see De Wolf et al., 2017).
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40 2.3 Lifelong data measurement

41 Having a lifelong 'record of achievement' has been viewed by governments, education ~~al~~
42 policy makers, teachers and learners themselves as a valuable way to demonstrate their
43 ability to enter educational programmes or gain employment. One problem is that the
44 record may only include formal assessment records. In ~~some~~ domains, ~~such as~~ computer
45 programming or ~~the~~ design disciplines, achievement is better demonstrated through
46 analysis of day-to-day activity and outcomes, rather than through assessment *per se*. (Deno,
47 1985). These activities often are distributed over different sites, ~~for example at~~ such as
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54 ⁹ Cf. the purchase of Lynda.com by LinkedIn (Owsinski, 2015, Kapko, 2016) and the
55 subsequent data breach (Hackett, 2016). (Barbaschow, 2016).
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work, ~~in~~ an online forum and ~~on~~ social media, rather than in one educational institution or learning system. Therefore, there is a need to gather and analyse data related to achievement distributed across different sites.

~~Different~~ There are different computational concepts have been considered for techniques for collecting and storing ~~these types of~~ lifelong learner profiles. A common example is the e-Portfolio, where students “*document their learning, deposit and share collections of work, reflect on their learning and showcase their learning and achievements*”.¹⁰ These e-portfolios allow an audit trail of activity that is useful for documenting learning progress (Kamentez, 2014~~5~~). Blockchain technologies have been proposed as a way to ensure ~~the~~ ‘authenticity of ~~the~~ data’ stored within these e-portfolios. A blockchain is a distributed record of online activities, or digital events, which has a consensus method to agree whether a new ‘block’ is legitimate (Sharples and Domingue, 2016). This system allows formation of a permanent, distributed record of intellectual effort and reputational reward. A central claim is that blockchain ‘democratises’ education by opening up records of achievement beyond traditional forms of certification in ways that allow employers to view a wide range of achievements (e.g. Kaplan & Garcia, 2019). In reality, blockchain is probably just ‘less insecure’ ~~th~~an existing data security methodologies (Orcutt, 2018), and by requiring a shift of trust from institutions to technology (Schneier, 2018), it may actually undermine attitudes that are necessary for a democracy to function.

Despite the potential benefits of e-portfolios and blockchain, there are a range of associated risks. The first ~~problem~~ is the validity of the data and how records of achievement are interpreted by employers. There are many reasons why an individual may demonstrate a sudden dip in performance. ~~B~~, but how might this periods of low performance be interpreted by the future employers? Ideally, when all records of achievement at every point of a student’s journey are recorded, data have to be interpreted in context. However, most analytics systems do not harvest data that takes into consideration the learner’s context and consequences for their learning decisions (Morozov, 2014). These systems tend to use quantitative data but there are fundamental questions around the assumptions that make it inevitable to use data that can be quantified, rather than qualitative, contextual data. These contextual data – learner motivations, goals, self-regulation and agency – are difficult to measure but are, nevertheless, critically important to learning (Littlejohn & Hood, 2018, p.82).

¹⁰ Cited from <http://eufolio.eu/>, ~~- see -~~ also - ~~projects -~~ such - as <http://europortfolio.org/>.

These concerns about context and agency illustrate a further problem associated with data “ownership” and control: students need to be able to control their own data and decide whether or not they wish their all records of achievement at specific every points in their lives to be included. Ensuring students are able to actively make choices about when and how their data is used is an important aspect of social mobility consideration, to ensure individuals are not disadvantaged. However, the least advantaged are less likely to have access to support and advice around to help them decide how to include their own data in the system in ways that advantage them compare. Advantaged Those learners who already are advantaged students are more likely to have support networks they can draw upon to help them manage their own data.

There also are issues of questions surrounding who takes any decision decides to retain or delete data, or to keep it stored. If data of our If data about learning ‘follow’ us learners throughout their lives, who will store it, who will be the data ‘steward’, can we data be selectively deleted data that we regard as negatively impacting on us at present – the internet is a massive archive, but often with no does not support and allow agency of those the data represent (Lynch, 2017). (LYNCH, C. 2017. Stewardship in the “Age of Algorithms”. First Monday, 22, 12, online. Available: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5210/fm.v22i12.8097>.)

Educational e-portfolios are more provide more information-rich about achievement than traditional educational certificates. This They offers the convenience of having all one’s certificates certification and qualifications in one place and opportunity to add more alongside supplementary information. Opportunity is also related to the reasons, which allows for more detailed data in analytics contexts: Big data is often collected opportunistically following availability, speed and cost. If their processing of such data that does not lead to useful predictions and conclusions, there is always the promise that with more However, long-term data, collected collection over a longer time, analyses and outcomes will become better. However, this can lead to long-term morph into unhelpful surveillance, with capitalising on the association of learners with carrying ever-more detailed life-long data dossiers with them. At the same time, the same Another issue is that these data, aggregated differently, also form detailed life-long data dossiers of trails that can be associated with teachers and others involved in teaching and learning processes education. These longitudinal data collections pose challenges over and above their level of detail, which we will address next.

Lifelong, aggregated data may reduce represents people to as ‘objects’ with ‘measured characteristics’ that are used to predict their futures. Rather than supporting their development, this could deprive them of the right to have details about them forgotten. However, a All humans experience different phases of lifelong development, so, rather than supporting their development, lifelong data could deprive learners of the right

to have details about them forgotten. However, a problem is that not all phases are included in records and educational systems tend to focus on recording specific phases, such as childhood or adolescence. However, for some learners these may not be phases of the times when some individuals develop rapidly, therefore the data from these phases may not accurately illustrate the individual's attainment. There are well-defined moments in time that can become opportunities to forget 'points of forgetting', such as when for example when data is transferred from one educational institution to another, which. These points in time gives provide learner's opportunity for each individual to have agency in the way shape how their progress is documented.

Another further problem is that data collection may undermine the idea of the 'school as a protected space'. Educational institutions are not simply locations where teaching takes place, but also serve as protected spaces where learners are (in theory) free from social, political and economic pressures¹¹. The continuous assessment of student performance, as opposed to being tested at milestone intervals, places learners under continuous stress, emulates a business environment, and may give undue influence to contextual factors such as economic pressures. This means that learners who are advantaged by having skilled support networks and resources will find ways of maintaining long-term portfolios that benefit them in their future careers. Thus, lifelong portfolios may reduce equity.

3 Approaches towards better governance of AI and Big Data: the case of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation

Governments are facing challenges in terms of how they provide quality education or increasing numbers of learners while, at the same time, safeguarding fundamental rights of their citizens. The issues discussed in Section 2 raise a number of questions about how education systems should be governed. The European Union's data protection law GDPR is one approach being used by the EU countries to overcome these human rights issues. The GDPR expressly aims to protect the "fundamental rights and freedoms" of individuals in relation to data protection and privacy (Article 1 (2); see Gutwirth and De Hert, 2006, for the relationship between data protection, privacy and fundamental rights, and ICO, n.d., for an overview of GDPR principles).

In terms of the issue for learners to be able opt out of data collection (see

¹¹ – <http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=school>

Sections 2.1 and 2.2), GDPR recommends that personal data is processed only if one of several conditions are met (Article 6). One of these conditions is *consent* (Article 7, Article 4 11.), which has to be freely given and in an informed way. ~~Whether There have been intense debates as to whether users give informed consent can function in an informed way as intended has been the focus of intense debate and needs to be investigated further~~ (Schiffner et al., 2018).

A second issue is data quality. Section 2.1 illustrated how ~~poor data quality may result from~~ differential accuracy in the ways different people are represented may lead to poor data quality: data from ~~some individuals groups~~ may be missing, while others or groups of individuals may be represented in more advantageous ways ~~than others~~. These differentials in data quality may result from inequality, and, through AI and big data analytics, may reinforce inequities disadvantage. The GDPR recognises ~~the need for~~ data quality as one of the foundational principles relating to underpinning the processing of personal data ('accuracy', Article 5 (1) d.), ~~i.e.~~ of the individuals represented in a dataset. The accuracy with which populations are represented, is ~~addressed only~~ indirectly addressed, through Recital 71 which requires ing procedures that prevent "*discriminatory effects on natural persons*". At the same time, the need ~~to have for~~ informed consent outweighs compulsory 'opt-in', even at the expense of ~~data quality~~.

The law requires and encourages the development and deployment of (often novel) methods to ensure data quality is as good as possible. It is only through the collection of good quality data that equity and fundamental rights can be achieved. These requirements have triggered promising new areas of research in computer science, AI and related fields. These research areas include investigations of anonymous data collection and processing, de-identification, and fairness, particularly in terms of non-discrimination (e.g., Schiffner et al., 2018; <https://www.facctconference.org/>). ~~In the future, educational~~ uses of AI and Big Data in Education ~~should~~ include draw on these developments.

A third issue is the intentional or incidental re-purposing of data (see Section 2.1). One of the GDPR's key principles is purpose limitation (Article 5 (1) b.): to ensure data is not used for purposes other than those specifically named and (in the case of consent-based processing) agreed ~~at the outset~~. ~~It is well known that~~ ~~†~~ This principle conflicts with the exploratory nature of AI and Big Data analyses. ~~Problems include; illustrations include~~ the open complex phrasing of many consent forms, along with the notion of 'compatible purpose' and as well as the general problem of 'mission creep'. These remain major problems in AI research and development which should be stamped out controlled.

A fourth issue is associated with 'profiling'. The GDPR highlights a number of risks associated with extensive and fine-grained profiling of people (Article 22 and Recital 71). Profiles (such as e-portfolio profiling described in Section 2.3) are collections of data about

individuals that are gathered over an extended period of time. The GDPR mandates that profiling should not lead to discriminatory outcomes.¹² These legal provisions have contributed substantially to computer science and interdisciplinary efforts to develop ‘fair, accountable’ and ‘non-discriminatory’ algorithms and systems (~~again, see for example~~ cf. <https://www.facctconference.org>). The GDPR has also introduced a “right to be forgotten” (primary name: right to erasure, Article 17). However, this right does not ~~cover~~ include the micro-management of one’s own data, ~~and e.~~ Exercising this right involves a careful balancing of ~~the~~ the rights of the individual against with the rights of the collective.

A fifth issue is transparency, which is related to data ‘ownership’ (the sixth issue). The GDPR recognises these challenges (highlighted in Section 2.2) and mandates for transparency and fairness¹³ as key principles that underpin the processing of personal data (Article 5, 1.). It also requires processors to provide various forms of information that form an ‘explanation’ of how and why data are processed, including the AI methods deployed (~~for an overview of this controversial area, see~~ cf. Selbst & Powles, 2017 or Schiffner et al., 2018). Arguably the GDPR also makes it impossible to treat personal data as ‘owned’ in the same sense as other ‘objects’ can be owned, since data remain ‘protected’ throughout business or other transactions (Purtova, 2017). These legal provisions have contributed substantially to the efforts of computer scientists to develop ‘Explainable AI (XAI)’, aimed at making it easier to interpret AI processing (Guidotti et al., 2019). It remains an ongoing challenge to balance the interests of the public in transparency through, e.g., for example, code being made open-source (and thus scrutable) and data subjects being afforded information and explanation rights, with the interests of companies to protect their trade secrets and competitive advantage (e.g., Schiffner et al., 2018). Certainly, the

¹² “ ‘profiling’ [...] consists of any form of automated processing of personal data evaluating the personal aspects relating to a natural person, in particular... [to analyse or predict] aspects concerning the data subject's performance at work, economic situation, health, personal preferences or interests, reliability or behaviour, location or movements, where it produces legal effects... concerning him or her or similarly significantly affects him or her.” (Recital 71)

¹³ The GDPR notion of fairness “means that you should only handle personal data in ways that people would reasonably expect and not use it in ways that have unjustified adverse effects on them. [...] Assessing whether you are processing information fairly depends partly on how you obtain it. In particular, if anyone is deceived or misled when the personal data is obtained, then this is unlikely to be fair.” (<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/principles/lawfulness-fairness-and-transparency/>)

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3 legal mandate of the GDPR to consider data protection from the start and throughout
4 product life cycles (“data protection by design”, Schiffner et al., 2018, also known as
5 “privacy by design”, Tsormpatzoudi et al., 2016), is a step in the right direction.
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8 There remains a fundamental question around the extent to which AI and Big Data in
9 education actually maintains the status quo, instead of bringing about facilitating
10 innovation (see Section 2.1). There is an Basing the future on past data inherently is
11 conservative inherent conservatism in the analysis of Big Data (which, by learning from
12 past data, and is predisposed to reproducing the status quo). – This issue is at odds with the
13 idea that Big Data and of AI leadings to ‘innovation’ (e.g., Barabas et al., 2018; D’Ignazio &
14 Klein, 2018). This issue cannot be regulated easily and makes it all the more even
15 important to critically investigate AI systems critically.
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20 The GDPR is influential beyond the EU countries in which it has been implemented.
21 For a number of reasons First, through its construction its implementation across the EU
22 regulates the behaviour of entities outside the EU. This includes Tech technology
23 companies, regardless of their own jurisdiction, if they that process the personal data of EU
24 citizens. Second, the implementation – of it is known that GDPR is has influenced ing other
25 some non-EU countries to reconsider their own laws (Kpadonou, 2019). Third, through
26 its the implementation GDPR is driving research activity on data and human rights.
27 However, d Despite these positive outcomes, there are serious limitations of GDPR. First, as
28 a general data protection regulation, GDPR is not specifie-tailored towards any particular
29 domain, such as education. Second, rapid digitalisation is mediated through a number of
30 factors, such as social norms, industry power and industry self-regulation, and so on.
31 Therefore it is This makes it difficult for regulation to keep in-step with these other multiple
32 influences. Approaches to regulation, such as the EU’s Ethics Guidelines on Trustworthy
33 AI¹⁴, are one of the many complementary forms of regulation available. However, these
34 tend to be general (in this case for AI¹⁵) and, as such, have severe are limited editions in their
35 approaches (in this case being about ethics, which is not legally enforceable, – although
36 some work with a long-term vision of co-shaping “the next GDPR”, a comprehensive
37 regulation of AI).
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45 In summary, laws such as GDPR offer important ways to address the issues
46 associated with the use of AI and Big Data in education. However, these laws are not
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50 ¹⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/ethics-guidelines-trustworthy-ai>

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52 ¹⁵ This is also pointed out in See the University of Buckingham’s Institute for Ethical AI in
53 Education (IEAIED) position on the EU Guidelines
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sufficient in themselves to solve [these major](#) issues. [A long-term vision is to co-design “the next GDPR” as a comprehensive regulation of AI.](#)

4 A way forward: promoting learner choice and agency

This article [has analysed issues of AI in education, places placing](#) emphasis on [human rights and](#) the importance of learners ‘owning’ and ‘controlling’ their [own data and profiles](#). [Moving beyond questions of Enabling](#) ownership and control, [it is also important to consider the](#) [requires support that enables agency of all](#) individual [agency of](#) (learners and teachers) [involved in the learning process](#). Learners should not simply be considered as ‘data subjects’, [since there are important considerations around the degree of freedom and and should be enabled to exert](#) autonomy they have over their own data. [Key questions include how will students determine the optimal information about them, and how can they later adapt their decisions? Are learner’s choices logged, who can see these logs, and how does this affect their freedom of choice? These questions are](#) This is also important for teachers, about whom big personal data are collected and whose expertise and actions may be constrained and undermined by [data educational monitoringsurveillance](#).

It is important to strike a balance between [respecting stakeholders’ enabling](#) autonomy and burdening [them with additional tasks needed individuals with the need](#) to manage their [identities data](#) as their data footprint expands (see Shamir, 2008). [It could be argued that r](#) There is a danger that, rather than [respecting supporting](#) agency, giving learners options around their data [simply provides](#) the illusion of ‘consumer choice’ (Jones et al., 2013, p.153). [A pervasive, digital environment may encourage learners to behave as passive consumers, rather than engendering democratic behaviour and choice \(Björklund, 2016\). These tendencies towards passive compliance are illustrated in the idea of AI systems as enabling ‘personalised learning’, moving away from the philosophy of learning as a collective action and an important civic activity.](#) It is important to consider how governments are introducing AI into [their](#) national education systems. Nations that view education as primarily [an individual’s investment in their future as an investment in future](#) employability, [such as the US and UK,](#) [may will likely](#) introduce different forms of regulation around AI in education compared with countries that view education primarily as a benefit for society.

In summary, [this analysis has through considered consideration of the implications effects](#) of AI in education on individual freedoms and fundamental rights. [T, this he](#) article concludes with a call to action to [start with consideration of foreground](#) fundamental human rights as a [platform for the embedding of starting point for implementation of](#) AI in educational [systems.](#) There is an [urgent](#) need to [balance the benefits and risks as make](#)

sure learners and teachers, rather than technology companies and organisations, are the main beneficiaries as AI tools are developed, marketed and deployed embedded in education. However, it remains unclear who - which body or organisation - should will take responsibility and how.

AI in education extends beyond data privacy and impacts fundamental human rights. This means educational institutions are too small and narrowly focussed to take on this role, because of their inability to influence broader impact beyond educational policy into labour law, consumer protection law and so on. At a national, governmental level, the consideration of human rights will take into consideration include different perspectives, depending on each country and its associated culture. While laws, such as the European Union's data protection law GDPR, begin to address several of the some key challenges identified. However, these laws are not sufficient to solve the problems associated with AI in educational systems. - Issues raised by the use of AI in education are of global proportion and There is a significant opportunity, therefore, to introduce regulations are needed at a trans-national level, overseen by (for example) the UN,) to monitor and regulate AI systems development for use in across different parts sections of society, including education. AI, big data, and education analytic business is multi-national, and like the global ecommerce and social networking platforms, regulation at the national level is generally not workable. The sooner regulation is implemented, the faster learners, teachers and all citizens can avoid the risks of AI in education undermining their fundamental human rights.

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1
2 *We thank the reviewers for their thoughtful and valuable comments. In the following paragraphs, we explain how we*
3 *addressed each one. We hope to have addressed all issues in a satisfactory way.*

4
5
6 Reviewer(s)' Comments to Author:

7
8 Reviewer: 1

9
10 Comments to the Author

11 I commend the author on a well-written and cogently argued piece on an important and very relevant topic. The case
12 studies in particular make a valuable contribution to this emerging field and the analysis of the GDPR makes an
13 important link between theoretical discussion and legal framework.

14 *We thank the reviewer for this positive feedback.*

15
16 I have noted a few possible areas for revision:

17
18 The author(s) refer to the paper as a 'study' in the abstract, but the methodology is unclear. From where is the argument
19 drawn? It would be helpful to make this clear.

20
21 *We have added a note in the last paragraph of the Introduction.*

22
23 There is very little up-front discussion of what is understood as human rights, individual freedoms or fundamental
24 rights. It would be helpful to add a paragraph about this early on, and an acknowledgment that these values are defined
25 and protected by law. This would connect the two strands of the article more clearly.

26
27 *We have added a detailed footnote in the Introduction. Given the quite technical nature of these distinctions, the*
28 *passage would have broken the flow of reading, and we have therefore opted for a footnote rather than a paragraph in*
29 *the running text of the Introduction.*

30
31 The author(s) tend to refer to education as a single entity, without specific reference to differences in educational
32 context, age group, types of provision etc. Whilst I understand this is largely beyond the scope of this discussion, it
33 would be helpful to make reference to the heterogeneity of education as a field, and how this relates to the particular
34 human rights of, for example, children vs adults. The work of Sonia Livingstone might be useful here. Also - Lupton, D
35 and Williamson, B (2017), 'The datafied child: The dataveillance of children and implications for their rights', *New*
36 *Media & Society* 19(5), 780-794.

37
38 *Thank you for these pointers. We have added a footnote at the beginning of Section 2 to explain our scoping.*

39
40 Throughout the text, particular in the discussion of case studies, there could be more careful referencing. eg. in section
41 2.2 "The headbands are being used to
42 force students to focus on their lessons and it is reported they achieve higher scores." eg. 2.3 "achievement is better
43 demonstrated through analysis
44 of day-to-day activity and outcomes, rather than through assessment per se." Please add references to support this
45 claim. This type of statement needs to be consistently referenced (even if the source is mentioned further down in the
46 article), as it is important for the reader to be able to check each claim.

47
48 *We have added references where it appeared appropriate to us, but also used common strategies of scientific writing so*
49 *as not to unduly block the flow of reading: scoping of a reference over a group of sentences that report on one semantic*
50 *unit, and no references in cases of statements that can be regarded as common knowledge in the field, or that represent*
51 *our own judgement. We are aware that it is an ongoing meta-theoretic debate as to what exactly constitutes "common*
52 *knowledge in a field" and that therefore these rules of scientific writing are not mathematically precise. Still, we are*
53 *also aware that this is not a problem that can be solved with mathematical rigour, and we have applied our best*
54 *judgement of what the community would consider clear attributions of claims in a readable text.*

55
56 Reviewer: 2

57
58 Comments to the Author

59 This paper discusses a significant and highly relevant topic, i.e. issues of learner choice and fundamental rights in the
60 context of AI applications in education. In this way, the article presents a somewhat unusual and highly interesting
perspective on AI in education - while oftentimes the aim is to justify the significance of AI technologies by

1
2 demonstrating their positive effects and benefits, the presented work takes a more critical position on AI in education, in
3 general, and reflects on potential risks in terms of data ownership, transparency, and legal aspects.
4 The revised structure of this resubmitted version of the paper and way of argumentation is much better readable and
5 understandable, the argumentation line much clearer.

6
7 *We thank the reviewer for this positive feedback.*

8
9 Nevertheless, I would like to share some suggestions for further refinement/enrichment of the paper:

10 * I am not sure whether the definition of AI used in the intro is the best or most appropriate for this paper - since it
11 refers to computer-controlled robots. Maybe you can find a more suitable definition that is more targeted to educational
12 applications.

13 *The definition of AI that we use indeed refers to computer-controlled robots, but only as one of two possibilities (“the*
14 *ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to ...”). We use this definition for two reasons. The first*
15 *reason is that we would consider it confusing to readers if we re-defined a term with a meaning and definitions that are*
16 *widely accepted throughout the technical communities as well as in the more general and also popular-science usage.*
17 *Second, while indeed we do concentrate on digital computers as agents in the sense of the definition, we also discuss*
18 *one example of the use of computer-controlled robots (see Section 2.2), and we believe that in general, the use of robots*
19 *in educational settings will increase in the near future, and that it is important to subsume these agents under more*
20 *general analyses of AI.*

21
22 * Foot note number 3 on page 4 is missing.

23
24 *Thank you for pointing this out. The footnote sign was a typo, and it has now been removed.*

25
26 * Page 5, line 23: delete 'learner' after 'Similarly'

27
28 *Fixed.*

29
30 * In section 2, I think it might be a good idea to introduce one (or even two) more subsections - section 2.1 ('opt out'),
31 page 6, from line 28 on would be more suitable to represent a separate section (maybe on 'data handling', in general).
32 Similarly, in section 2.2 ('limited opt out'), page 9, from line 28 on more general aspects are discussed that may be
33 suitable to shift in a separate section.

34
35 *We agree that more subsections can be helpful in principle. However, we have carefully balanced the pros and cons of*
36 *doing so in the current article, only to arrive at the conclusion to leave the section structuring as it was.*
37 *Our reasoning was as follows: Indeed, there are different issues discussed within the current Sections 2.1 and also*
38 *within 2.2. However, they all emanate from a discussion of the effects of two different (and key) design choices in*
39 *educational systems: whether opt-out is possible and whether long-term records are created. To reflect the importance*
40 *of the choice to allow for opt-out in principle or whether to limit opt-out by design, we have distributed a discussion of*
41 *the former into two sections (i.e. 2.1 and 2.2). The remainder of the paper is also structured into sections at a rather*
42 *coarse level of granularity (e.g. there is only one section for the complex legal discussion). In fact, only Section 2 even*
43 *contains any subsections. We therefore decided, after extensive deliberation of your suggestion, to not “de-balance” the*
44 *text further by adding a further level (sub-subsections) into Section 2.*

45
46 * In section 2.2, page 9, line 26 a reference to criminal justice systems using AI is made - I think this is irrelevant and
47 should be skipped.

48
49 *We have removed this sentence.*

50
51 * As indicated in my earlier review, based on the topic elaborated and examples discussed I would expect the paper to
52 mention/introduce the term 'learning analytics' - since many of the mentioned AI examples clearly refer to learning
53 analytics. I think by an explicit reference to this topic, the paper could stimulate increased interest and gain additional
54 readers from the field of LA.

55
56 *We have highlighted the connection to learning analytics in the Introduction.*

57
58 * I would find it highly interesting if the paper could elaborate in more detail on the issue of transparency and how to
59 deal with it - in terms of scrutability, the algorithms used behind AI technologies, the relevance of opening up and
60 informing stakeholders about the foundations/algorithms and the conflicting interests of tech companies in case of
proprietary software.

1
2 *We have added a sentence and a reference to highlight this problem in Section 3. Unfortunately, within the length limits*
3 *of this paper, we cannot elaborate more.*

4
5 * In section 2.3 (p.11), blockchain is mentioned. Since blockchain is a hot topic I think it would be good to elaborate a
6 bit more on it and to include one or two more relevant references, especially also in order to substantiate the claim that
7 it is maybe just a 'less insecure' approach than other data security methodologies.

8
9 *We have added further remarks and references. Unfortunately, within the length limits of this paper, we cannot*
10 *elaborate more.*

11
12 * I find the thought that some sorts of risks may be not inherent to the technology itself, but arising from unintended or
13 unanticipated consequences of the use of AI system, highly relevant.

14
15 *We agree. Unfortunately, the length restrictions of the journal do not permit us to delve further into this important*
16 *topic. We have added a reference to an overview article (Pringle, Michael, and Michael, 2016). that points the reader*
17 *to further relevant literature.*

18
19 Another aspect that I think is relevant and which I would therefore suggest to introduce and discuss in the paper is the
20 idea and approaches on ethics-by-design - where ethical considerations are already and explicitly taken up in the design
21 and development stage of a new software or technology.

22
23 *We agree that by-design mindsets and engineering practices are central to making progress in this area, and have*
24 *added a remark and references at the end of Section 3. On the other hand, we do not believe that ethics-by-design (at*
25 *least in its meaning as defined by Dignum et al.(AIES '18: Proceedings of the 2018 AAI/ACM Conference on AI,*
26 *Ethics, and Society. December 2018 Pages 60–66, <https://doi.org/10.1145/3278721.3278745>), i.e. “methods,*
27 *algorithms and tools needed to endow autonomous agents with the capability to reason about the ethical aspects of*
28 *their decisions”, is helpful for the purposes described in our article. Whether this is due to intrinsic limitations of*
29 *autonomous agents or to the limitations of the current state of AI technology, remains a point of debate, but would go*
30 *far beyond the scope of the current paper.*